



## Tobacco-like warning label for social media sought by US surgeon general who asks Congress to act

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN  
AP Business Writer

The U.S. surgeon general has called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people's lives, similar to those now mandatory on cigarette boxes.

In a Monday opinion piece in the The New York Times, Dr. Vivek Murthy said that social media is a contributing factor in the mental health crisis among young people. "It is time to require a surgeon general's warning label on social media platforms, stating that social media is associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents. A surgeon general's warning label, which requires congressional action, would regularly remind parents and adolescents that social media has not been proved safe," Murthy said. "Evidence from tobacco studies show that warning labels can increase awareness and change behavior."

Murthy said that the use of just a warning label wouldn't make social media safe for young people, but would be a part of the steps needed.

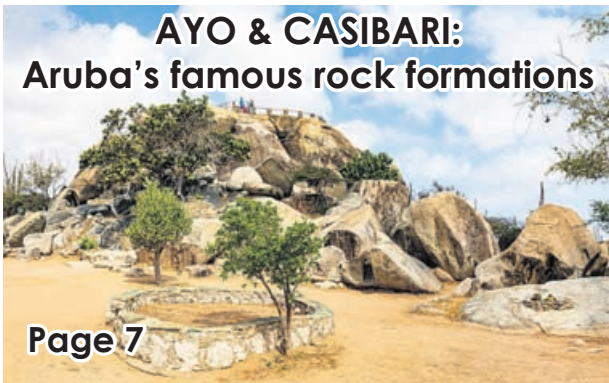


The U.S. Surgeon General's Warning appears on a pack of Camel cigarettes purchased at a Chicago area news stand on Nov. 30, 2012.

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Shopping, Dining & Entertainment Center

**OPEN FOR BREAKFAST**

Located in Palm Beach in the High-Rise Hotel area, across the Holiday Inn Hotel



Che Bar



Drunk's Denial



Fusion Cuisine



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# Tobacco-like warning label for social media sought by US surgeon general who asks Congress to act

*Continued from Front*

Social media use is prevalent among young people, with up to 95% of youth ages 13 to 17 saying that they use a social media platform, and more than a third saying that they use social media "almost constantly," according to 2022 data from the Pew Research Center.

"Social media today is like tobacco decades ago: It's a product whose business model depends on addicting kids. And as with cigarettes, a surgeon general's warning label is a critical step toward mitigating the threat to children," Josh Golin, executive director at Fairplay, an organization that is dedicated to ending marketing to children, said in a statement.

Actually getting the labels on social media platforms would take congressional action — and it's not clear how quickly that might happen, even with apparent bipartisan unity around child safety online. Lawmakers have held multiple congressional hearings on child online safety and there's legislation in the works. Still, the last federal law aimed at protecting children online was enacted in 1998, six years before Facebook's founding.

"I am hoping that would be combined with a lot of other work that Congress has been trying to do to improve the safety and design and privacy of social media products," said Dr. Jenny Radesky, a developmental behavioral pediatrician at the University of Michigan and leader at the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Those those two things would have to go hand in hand, because there's so much that Congress can do to follow the steps of the United Kingdom and the European Union in passing laws that take into account what kids need when they're interacting with digital products."

Even with Congressional approval, warning labels would likely be challenged



**Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy speaks during an event on the White House complex in Washington, April 23, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

in the courts by tech companies. "Putting a warning label on online speech isn't just scientifically unsound, it's at odds with the constitutional right to free speech," said Adam Kovacevich, CEO of the tech industry policy group Chamber of Progress. "It's surprising to see the U.S. Surgeon General attacking social media when teens themselves say it provides an important outlet for social connection."

Last year, Murthy warned that there wasn't enough evidence to show that social media is safe for children and teens. He said at the time that policymakers needed to address the harms of social media the same way they regulate things like car seats, baby formula, medication and other products children use.

To comply with federal regulation, social media companies already ban kids under 13 from signing up for their platforms — but children have been shown to easily get around the bans, both with and without their

parents' consent.

Other measures social platforms have taken to address concerns about children's mental health can also be easily circumvented. For instance, TikTok introduced a default 60-minute time limit for users under 18. But once the limit is reached, minors can simply enter a passcode to keep watching.

Murthy believes the impact of social media on young people should be a more pressing concern.

"Why is it that we have failed to respond to the harms of social media when they are no less urgent or widespread than those posed by unsafe cars, planes or food? These harms are not a failure of willpower and parenting; they are the consequence of unleashing powerful technology without adequate safety measures, transparency or accountability," he wrote.

In January the CEOs of Meta, TikTok, X and other social media companies went before the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify as parents worry that

they're not doing enough to protect young people. The executives touted existing safety tools on their platforms and the work they've done with nonprofits and law enforcement to protect minors.

Murthy said Monday that Congress needs to implement legislation that will protect young people from online harassment, abuse and exploitation and from exposure to extreme violence and sexual content. "The measures should prevent platforms from collecting sensitive data from children and should restrict the use of features like push notifications, autoplay and infinite scroll, which prey on developing brains and contribute to excessive use," Murthy wrote.

Sens. Marsha Blackburn and Richard Blumenthal supported Murthy's message Monday.

"We are pleased that the Surgeon General — America's top doctor — continues to bring attention to the harmful impact that social media has on our children," the senators said in a

prepared statement.

The surgeon general is also recommending that companies be required to share all their data on health effects with independent scientists and the public, which they currently don't do, and allow independent safety audits.

Murthy said schools and parents also need to participate in providing phone-free times and that doctors, nurses and other clinicians should help guide families toward safer practices.

While Murthy pushes for more to be done about social media in the United States, the European Union enacted groundbreaking new digital rules last year. The Digital Services Act is part of a suite of tech-focused regulations crafted by the 27-nation bloc — long a global leader in cracking down on tech giants.

The DSA is designed to keep users safe online and make it much harder to spread content that's either illegal, like hate speech or child sexual abuse, or violates a platform's terms of service. It also looks to protect citizens' fundamental rights such as privacy and free speech.

Officials have warned tech companies that violations could bring fines worth up to 6% of their global revenue — which could amount to billions — or even a ban from the EU.

Murthy's focus is on teens and social media, but Radesky noted that adults could use a warning label too.

"What we've heard from teens is that they want their parents to be on social media less and on their devices less," she said. "That's another behavior change we hope that parents will reflect on and think about — 'where could I cut down or create some boundaries to create more family time or sleep time?' — and not only hyper-focusing on what teens are doing, but really what all of us as a society are doing in terms of healthy relationships with technology." □



# Biden's Title IX law expanding protections for LGBTQ+ students is dealt another setback

By BRUCE SCHREINER

Associated Press

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)** — The Biden administration's effort to expand protections for LGBTQ+ students hit another roadblock Monday, when a federal judge in Kentucky temporarily blocked the new Title IX rule in six additional states.

U.S. District Judge Danny C. Reeves referred to the regulation as "arbitrary in the truest sense of the word" in granting a preliminary injunction blocking it in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. His ruling comes days after a different federal judge temporarily blocked the new rule from taking effect in Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi and Montana.

Attorneys general in more than 20 Republican-led states have filed at least seven legal challenges to President Joe Biden's new policy. Republicans argue the policy is a ruse to allow transgender girls to play on girls athletic teams. The Biden administration said the rule does not apply to athletics.

Still under consideration is a request for a preliminary injunction filed by the Republican attorneys general of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Education Department has asked a judge to deny the request. Set to take hold in August,



Lawmakers listen as parents speak about the prospect of their children competing against transgender girls in school sports at the Utah State Capitol on March 25, 2022, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

the rule expands Title IX civil rights protections to LGBTQ+ students, expands the definition of sexual harassment at schools and colleges, and adds safeguards for victims. Title IX, passed in 1972, is a law that bars sex discrimination in education.

The ruling Monday in Kentucky was applauded by the state's Republican attorney general, Russell Coleman, who said the regulation would undermine equal opportunities for women.

"The judge's order makes clear that the U.S. Department of Education's attempt to redefine 'sex' to include 'gender identity' is unlawful

and beyond the agency's regulatory authority," Coleman said in a statement.

The Education Department said it would "continue to fight for every student" as it reviews the ruling.

"Title IX guarantees that no person experience sex discrimination in a federally funded educational environment," the agency said in a statement. "The department crafted the final Title IX regulations following a rigorous process."

In his ruling, Reeves noted that Title IX was intended to "level the playing field" between men and women in education but said the

department was seeking to "derail deeply rooted law" with the new policy.

"At bottom, the department would turn Title IX on its head by redefining 'sex' to include 'gender identity,'" he said. "But 'sex' and 'gender identity' do not mean the same thing. The department's interpretation conflicts with the plain language of Title IX and therefore exceeds its authority to promulgate regulations under that statute." At a minimum, students of both sexes would "experience violations of their bodily privacy by students of a different sex" if the rule took effect, the judge said.

The rule would mandate that schools "permit biological men into women's intimate spaces, and women into men's, within the educational environment based entirely on a person's subjective gender identity," he said. "This result is not only impossible to square with Title IX but with the broader guarantee of education protection for all students." The new rule also has "serious First Amendment implications," the judge said.

"The rule includes a new definition of sexual harassment which may require educators to use pronouns consistent with a student's purported gender identity rather than their biological sex," Reeves wrote. "Based on the 'pervasive' nature of pronoun usage in everyday life, educators likely would be required to use students' preferred pronouns regardless of whether doing so conflicts with the educator's religious or moral beliefs. A rule that compels speech and engages in such viewpoint discrimination is impermissible."

The ruling by Reeves, who was appointed to the federal bench by Republican President George W. Bush, was the latest setback for the new protections, which were praised by civil rights advocates but drew backlash from opponents who say they undermine the spirit of Title IX. □

## The IRS wants to end another major tax loophole for the wealthy and raise \$50 billion in the process

By JOSH BOAK and FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The IRS plans to end a major tax loophole for wealthy taxpayers that could raise more than \$50 billion in revenue over the next decade, the U.S. Treasury Department says.

The proposed rule and guidance announced Monday includes plans to essentially stop "partnership basis shifting" — a process by which

a business or person can move assets among a series of related parties to avoid paying taxes.

Biden administration officials said after evaluating the practice that there are no economic grounds for these transactions, with Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adreymore calling it "really just a shell game." The officials said the additional IRS funding provided through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act had enabled increased over-

sight and greater awareness of the practice.

"These tax shelters allow wealthy taxpayers to avoid paying what they owe," IRS commissioner Danny Werfel said.

Due to previous years of underfunding, the IRS had cut back on the auditing of wealthy individuals and the shifting of assets among partnerships and companies became common.

The IRS says filings for large pass-through businesses



A sign for the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, May 4, 2021.

Associated Press

used for the type of tax avoidance in the guidance increased 70% from 174,100 in 2010 to 297,400 in 2019.

However, audit rates for these businesses fell from 3.8% to 0.1% in the same time frame. □



# Tens of thousands of Marylanders receive pardons for marijuana convictions

By **BRIAN WITTE**  
**Associated Press**

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)** — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore ordered more than 175,000 pardons for marijuana convictions on Monday, saying the “most sweeping state-level pardon in any state” will help reverse harms from the past caused by the war on drugs. During a news conference, Moore said the executive order will affect “tens of thousands of Marylanders” convicted of misdemeanors. Some may have had more than one conviction pardoned through the process. “We are taking actions that are intentional, that are sweeping and unapologetic, and this is the largest such action in our nation’s history,” Moore, a Democrat, said.

Though the pardons will not result in anyone being released from incarceration and nor will they result in having past convictions automatically expunged from a person’s background check advocates praised the move as a way of removing barriers to housing, employment, or educational opportunities based on con-



**Maryland Gov. Wes Moore holds up an executive order he signed to issue more than 175,000 pardons for marijuana convictions on Monday, June 17, 2024 in Annapolis, Md.**

**Associated Press**

victions for conduct that is no longer illegal. Heather Warnken, executive director of the University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Criminal Justice Reform, described the pardons as “a win for thousands of Marylanders getting a fresh start to pursue education, employment, and other

forms of economic opportunity without the stain of a criminal conviction.” Recreational cannabis was legalized in Maryland in 2023 after voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2022 with 67% of the vote. Maryland decriminalized possession of personal use amounts of cannabis on

Jan. 1, 2023. Now, 24 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational cannabis.

“This is about changing how both government and society view those who have been walled off from opportunity because of broken and uneven policies,” Moore said.

Moore said “legalization does not turn back the clock on decades of harm that was caused by this war on drugs.” He continued: “It doesn’t erase the fact that Black Marylanders were three times more likely to be arrested for cannabis than white Marylanders before legalization. It doesn’t erase the fact that having a conviction on your record means a harder time with everything, everything, from housing, to employment to education.”

Shiloh Jordan, who lost his job on his second day at work after a minor cannabis conviction appeared in a background check by his employer, attended the news conference. Moore noted that even though Jordan went back to college and now works for the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore, he still had the cannabis conviction on his record.

“Well today, that ends,” Moore said. Jordan said he was thankful that his experience could be used as a testimony “and offer a lot of change for the people of Maryland.” □

## More than 70 million people in the U.S. are under heat alerts. Go indoors and hydrate

By **ANITA SNOW**  
**Associated Press**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — More than 70 million people in the United States were under extreme heat alerts Monday as a heat wave

moved eastward, and the mid-Atlantic and New England were likely to see highs in the 90s as the week progresses. Excessive humidity will make it feel even more oppressive.



**Home plate umpire Carlos Torres cools off during the ninth inning of a baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs in Chicago, Sunday, June 16, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

The U.S. last year saw the most heat waves, consisting of abnormally hot weather lasting more than two days, since 1936. Officials again warned residents to take precautions. Much of the Midwest and Northeast were under heat warnings or watches. The heat has been especially dangerous in recent years in Phoenix, where 645 people died from heat-related causes in 2023, which was a record. Temperatures there hit 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44.4 Celsius) on Saturday. Weather service forecasters say the first two weeks of June in Phoenix have been an average of 5.6 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than normal the hottest start to June on record there.

A meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Phoenix, Ted Whittock, advised reducing time outdoors between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., staying hydrated and wearing light, looser fitting clothing.

More than 100 cooling centers were open in the city and surrounding county, including two new overnight ones.

In neighboring New Mexico, heat on the Chaves County plains including Roswell was expected to hit 107 degrees F (41.6 Celsius) on Monday. In southern Colorado, temperatures were expected to surpass 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius). In Southern California, firefighters increased their containment of a large wildfire in mountains north

of Los Angeles on Monday after a weekend of explosive, wind-driven growth along Interstate 5.

While much of the U.S. swelters, late-season snow was forecast for the northern Rockies on Monday and Tuesday. Parts of Montana and north-central Idaho were under a winter storm warning. As much as 20 inches (51 centimeters) was predicted for higher elevations around Glacier National Park.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of tropical moisture was bringing an increasing threat of heavy rain and flash flooding to the central Gulf Coast.

Hurricane season this year is forecast to be among the most active in recent memory. □



# Netanyahu dissolves influential War Cabinet after key partner bolted from government

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dissolved the influential War Cabinet that has overseen the fighting in Gaza, a government spokesperson said Monday, days after a key member of the body bolted from the government over frustration with the Israeli leader's handling of the war.

The move was widely expected following the departure of Benny Gantz, a centrist former military chief. Gantz's absence from the government increases Netanyahu's dependence on his ultra-nationalist allies, who oppose a cease-fire. That could pose an additional challenge to the already fragile negotiations to end the eight-month war in Gaza. Government officials said Netanyahu would hold smaller forums for sensitive war issues, including with his Security Cabinet, which includes far-right governing partners who oppose cease-fire deals and have voiced support for reoccupying Gaza.

The War Cabinet was formed in the early days of the war, when Gantz, then an opposition party leader



From left, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Cabinet Minister Benny Gantz speak during a news conference in the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv, Israel on Oct. 28, 2023.

and Netanyahu rival, joined the coalition in a show of unity following the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas. He demanded that a small decision-making body steer the war, in a bid to sideline far-right members of Netanyahu's government. It was made up of three members: Gantz, Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

The move to scrap the War Cabinet comes as Israel faces more pivotal decisions.

Israel and Hamas are weighing the latest proposal for a cease-fire in exchange for the release of hostages taken by Hamas during its attack. Israeli troops are still bogged down in the Gaza Strip, fighting in the southern city of Rafah and against pockets of Hamas resurgence elsewhere, in addition to a dramatic escalation last week on the northern border with Lebanon.

After launching hundreds of rockets and drones to-

ward Israel in some of the most intense barrages in the conflict, Hezbollah sharply reduced the number of projectiles fired toward northern Israel on Sunday and Monday. The lull continued even after Israeli military officials said they killed a key operative in Hezbollah's rocket and missile department, Mohammed Ayoub, in a drone attack on Monday morning. The Israeli military said it tracked just two missiles fired Monday from Lebanon, and they did not

enter Israeli territory. In the past 48 hours, there were just six launches, down from more than 200 on Thursday. The lull could be due to the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha that began Sunday morning, as well as a visit from Amos Hochstein, a senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden. Hochstein is in Israel to discuss the volatile situation along the Lebanon-Israel border. He is scheduled to be in Beirut on Tuesday.

The U.S. has been trying to ease tensions along the frontier, and Hochstein made several trips to the region in recent months. Hezbollah began attacking Israel almost immediately after the Israel-Hamas war erupted, and daily exchanges of fire have been commonplace since then. In recent weeks, the exchanges have intensified, with fires breaking out on both sides of the border. Netanyahu has played a balancing act throughout the war, weighing pressure from Israel's top ally, the U.S., and growing global opposition to the fighting, as well as from his government partners, chief among them Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. □

# Dutch candidate Cabinet ministers are questioned by official working to build coalition government

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Candidate Cabinet ministers in the Netherlands' incoming far-right-led government underwent questioning Monday to establish their suitability for office, as the monthlong process of forming a new administration neared its end. Anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders' Party for Freedom won elections in November and has been working since then to cobble together a four-party coalition to govern for the next four-year parliamentary term.

The negotiations have been tough. Last week,

Wilders had to withdraw his candidate for minister for asylum and migration after a national security screening.

The replacement candidate, Marjolein Faber, prompted urgent discussions between the leaders of the coalition parties because of her past hard-right comments.

The rocky road toward a new government highlights tensions within a coalition that includes Wilders' far-right ideology, a populist pro-farming party and a new centrist party New Social Contract that is committed to reforming politics and protecting the constitutional rule of law.

The only party with experience in a national government is the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, or VVD, formerly led by outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

The VVD's candidate for minister for climate and green growth, Sophie Hermans, was first to meet Monday with the candidate prime minister, Dick Schoof, who is the official leading the formation process.

"I want to take my responsibility to work on the problems we have in the Netherlands, the challenges we face," Hermans told reporters in The Hague.

Rutte will remain caretaker

prime minister until the new administration is sworn in. He is widely expected to

become the next NATO chief after he leaves Dutch politics. □



Anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders of the PVV, or Party for Freedom, is interviewed after casting his ballot for the European election in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday June 6, 2024.

Associated Press



# Nuclear-armed nations are deepening their reliance on their nuclear weapons, watchdog finds

By JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — The world's nine nuclear-armed states continue to modernize their nuclear weapons as the countries deepened their reliance on such deterrence in 2023, a Swedish think tank said Monday.

"We have not seen nuclear weapons playing such a prominent role in international relations since the Cold War," said Wilfred Wan, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's weapons of mass destruction program.

Earlier this month, Russia and its ally Belarus launched a second stage of drills intended to train their troops in tactical nuclear weapons, part of the Kremlin's efforts to discourage the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

In a separate report, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, said the nine nuclear-armed states spent a combined total of \$91.4 billion on their arsenals in 2023 — equivalent to \$2,898 per second. The Geneva-based coalition of disarmament activists won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

The group said that figures



This image taken with a slow shutter speed on Oct. 2, 2019, and provided by the U.S. Air Force shows an unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile test launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

show a \$10.7 billion increase in global spending on nuclear weapons in 2023 compared to 2022, with the United States accounting for 80% of that increase. The U.S. share of total spending, \$51.5 billion, is more than all the other nuclear-armed countries put together.

"There has been a notable upward trend in the amount of money devoted to developing these most inhumane and destructive of weapons

over the past five years," said Alicia Sanders-Zakre, Policy and Research Coordinator with ICAN.

The next biggest spender was China at \$11.8 billion, she said, with Russia spending the third largest amount at \$8.3 billion.

"All this money is not improving global security, in fact it's threatening people wherever they live," Sanders-Zakre said. SIPRI estimated that some 2,100 of the deployed war-

heads were kept in a state of high operational alert on ballistic missiles, and nearly all belong to Russia or the USA. However, it said that China is also believed to have some warheads on high operational alert for the first time. "Regrettably we continue to see year-on-year increases in the number of operational nuclear warheads," said Dan Smith, SIPRI's director. He added that the trend will likely accelerate in the com-

ing years "and is extremely concerning."

Russia and the United States have together almost 90% of all nuclear weapons, SIPRI said.

The sizes of their military stockpiles seem to have remained relatively stable in 2023, although Russia is estimated to have deployed around 36 more warheads with operational forces than in January 2023, the watchdog added. In its SIPRI Yearbook 2024, the institute said that transparency regarding nuclear forces has declined in both countries in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and debates around nuclear-sharing arrangements have increased in importance.

Washington suspended its bilateral strategic stability dialogue with Russia, and last year Moscow announced that it was suspending its participation in the New START nuclear treaty.

Of the total global inventory of an estimated 12,121 warheads in January, about 9,585 were in military stockpiles for potential use. An estimated 3,904 of those warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft — which is 60 more than in January 2023 — and the rest were in central storage. □

Associated Press



In this undated photo from an unknown location, released in 2016, the leader of the Afghanistan Taliban Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada poses for a portrait.

Associated Press

## Reclusive Taliban leader warns Afghans against earning money or gaining 'worldly honor'

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban's reclusive supreme leader on Monday warned Afghans against earning money or gaining worldly honor at a time when the country is in the grip of humanitarian crises and isolated on the global stage.

Hibatullah Akhundzada gave his warning in a sermon to mark the festival of Eid al-Adha at a mosque in southern Kandahar province, weeks before a Taliban delegation goes to Doha, Qatar for U.N.-hosted talks on Afghanistan.

This is the first round of talks the Taliban will attend since they seized power in August 2021. They weren't invited to the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan in the first round, and they snubbed the second round because they wanted to be treated as the country's official representatives.

No government recognizes the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, whose aid-dependent economy was plunged into turmoil following their takeover.

U.N. spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said the invitation to the Doha meeting at the end of June does not imply recognition of the Taliban.

Akhundzada reminded Afghans of their duties as Muslims and made repeated calls for unity in his 23-minute sermon.

Messages by him and another influential Taliban figure, Sirajuddin Haqqani, to mark a religious festival in April showed tensions between hardliners and more moderate elements who want to scrap harsher policies and attract more outside support. □



## Celebrating Convenience: Same-Day Refrigerated Delivery, 7 Days a Week, and Beloved by Guests – The GroceriesToGo Aruba Experience

For over seven years, GroceriesToGo Aruba has been dedicated to transforming the visitor experience on this beautiful island, ensuring that guests spend more time enjoying Aruba's pristine beaches and less time worrying about groceries.

### A Legacy of Service and Convenience:

The roots of GroceriesToGo Aruba run deep in the island's history. The founder's grandfather, known affectionately as Chipi Chipi, was a beloved figure on the island. His store, La Moderna, remains a local staple, now managed by the founder's uncle. Inspired by a deep love for Aruba and its culture, the founder sought to offer a service that would further enhance the island experience for visitors.

### A Service Born from Love for Aruba:

Frequent visits to Aruba, cherished family traditions, and a desire to improve the guest experience laid the foundation for GroceriesToGo Aruba. The concept is simple yet transformative: providing a grocery shopping and delivery service that caters to every need, anywhere on the island, every day of the week.

### Seamless Convenience for Every Guest:

GroceriesToGo Aruba prides itself on exceptional customer service and a commitment to guest satisfaction. The service allows guests to place pre-trip orders that arrive upon check-in, or mid-trip orders to keep everyone satisfied throughout their stay. Whether it's beverages and snacks or a full family grocery order, GroceriesToGo Aruba ensures that every request is met with precision and care.

### What GroceriesToGo Aruba Offers:

**Convenience:** GroceriesToGo Aruba provides the convenience of pre-ordering groceries before guests' trips for delivery upon arrival. Additionally, same-day delivery is available for guests already on the island.



**Service:** GroceriesToGo Aruba is committed to exceptional customer service, guaranteeing satisfaction. Deliveries are made seven days a week, and any request is accommodated.

**Versatility:** From snacks and beverages to full family grocery orders, GroceriesToGo Aruba offers a versatile range of products. Furthermore, the service caters to beach picnics, romantic dinners, and special events.

**Quality Freshness:** GroceriesToGo Aruba ensures the freshness of its products by sourcing from Aruba's top grocers and delivering everything in refrigerated vehicles.

### Exciting New Features:

GroceriesToGo Aruba is now offering same-day delivery for orders placed by noon, ensuring that even last-minute needs are promptly met. All deliveries are made in refrigerated vehicles to guarantee the freshness and quality of your groceries.

### A Personal Touch:

The founder's personal commitment to the guests is evident in every aspect of the service. "It's my absolute pleasure to ensure our guests

have everything they need for an unforgettable stay in Aruba," says the founder. "We are always available to address guests' needs, and provide exceptional service at all times."

### Contact Information:

Guests are encouraged to reach out for any questions or to receive discount coupon codes. GroceriesToGo Aruba can be contacted via email at [info@groceriestogoaruba.com](mailto:info@groceriestogoaruba.com) or through their website at [www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com](http://www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com).

Experience Aruba the way it was meant to be enjoyed – with your toes in the sand and every convenience at your fingertips, thanks to GroceriesToGo Aruba. □



## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

**(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.**

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each

other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a



breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments

and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way! □

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!



# Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



**NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.**

## Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

## Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of



Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

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## Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Monday to Friday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com).





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## Food culture in Aruba

**(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner  
The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and

soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan

boyo (bread cake) and more.

### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the



side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag. □

**Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba**

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## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.



### **Picuda, Sphyrna barracuda, Greater Barracuda**

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyrna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year

in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup.

In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

### **Description**

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs

to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

### **In Aruba:**

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

## Episode CXXXIV - 134 - Sargasso Sea Weed

**NOORD — Seaweed, or macro algae, refers to thousands of species of macroscopic, multicellular, marine algae. Seaweed species such as kelps provide essential nursery habitat for fisheries and other marine species and thus protect food sources; other species, such as planktonic algae, play a vital role in capturing carbon, producing at least 50% of Earth's oxygen.**

Natural seaweed ecosystems are sometimes under threat from human activity. For example, mechanical dredging of kelp destroys the resource and dependent fisheries. Humans have a long history of cultivating seaweeds for their use. In recent years, seaweed farming has become a global agricultural practice, providing food, source material for various chemical uses, cattle feeds and fertilizers. Because of their importance in marine ecologies and for absorbing carbon dioxide, recent attention has been on cultivating seaweeds as a potential climate change mitigation strategy for bio

sequestration of carbon dioxide, alongside other benefits like nutrient pollution reduction, increased habitat for coastal aquatic species, and reducing local ocean acidification. The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate recommends "further research attention" as a mitigation tactic.

Sargasso a brown macro algae numerous throughout temperate and tropical oceans of the world, where they generally inhabit shallow water and coral reefs.

NASA satellites revealed the largest marine algae bloom in the world in 2018. A belt of Sargasso that contained over 22 million tons of seaweed stretched some 5,500 miles across the Atlantic to West Africa. Satellite images are showing abnormally high amounts again in 2021. Ten year data gathered has revealed the likely causes of these seaweed invasions: Global warming, dust clouds of the Saharan and the growing nitrogen footprint. Acts Just as nutrients feed

### Sargassum

**Treads to**

**Tourism**

**Health**

**Economy**

**Marine life**

**Opportunities**

**Biogas**

**Fertiliser**

**Biosorbent**

**Food products**

**Pharmaceuticals**

red tide blooms; feeding the Sargasso, which thrives in warmer water.

Sargasso presents risks to human health as well. In the water, it's harmless to humans, but the trouble begins once it lands on the beach and starts to decompose. Breathing in these toxic fumes may cause, skin irritation, respiratory and neurocognitive

symptoms in people that come in close contact with the degrading Sargasso.

Our West coast beaches also are covered with sea weed and marine grasses due to seasonal bigger waves that bumbles and loosen up the sea weed of the coral which finally lands on the coast. Public Works (DOW) usually did the cleanup work and

native traditional farmers picked up the rest with which they fertilize their "cunuco", traditional "Caquetian" agricultural land plots.

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's cultural origins, way of life etc. We highly recommend you to participation in this exclusive cultural encounter session, a mind opening and entertaining island experience. What-sapp + 297 5922702 or mail etniana03@gmail.com our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □

Article by: *Etnia Nativa*

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



# Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

## Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

## About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

## Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

## How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

## Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

## The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

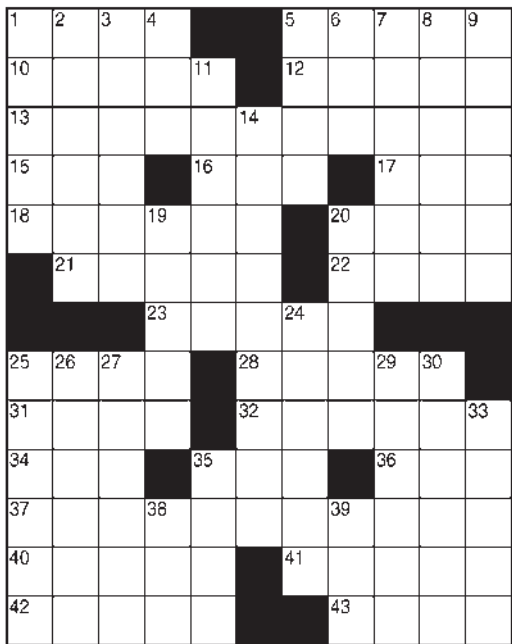
- ACROSS
- 40 Correct, as text
- 1 High point
- 5 Fleet makeup
- 10 Casual talks
- 12 Athlete's TV

DOWN

- 1 Cast member
- 2 Designer Coco
- 3 Challenging words
- 4 Summer on the Seine
- 5 Close
- 6 That fellow
- 7 Drink
- 8 Common allergen
- 9 Does refinery work
- 11 Buffalo NHL team
- 14 Roll the dice, say
- 19 Attests
- 20 Watchful
- 24 Became known
- 25 Drain covers
- 26 Generic
- 27 Come to
- 29 Belgrade's nation
- 30 Set straight
- 33 Categorizes
- 35 Knee protectors
- 38 Finale
- 39 Travel aid



Yesterday's answer



3-26

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

YJR AE ZYIRV FRGBWER YJR

AE ZYIRV. JY KRB EYJ AE

JRRVRV QYK ZYIAJN.

— OBWZY GYZXY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRINGTIME IS THE LAND AWAKENING. THE MARCH WINDS ARE THE MORNING YAWN. — LEWIS GRIZZARD

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C	1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	B	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



# Drug shortages keep on growing. Older, injectable medicines are among the most vulnerable

By TOM MURPHY  
AP Health Writer

Erin Fox has tracked drug shortages for more than 20 years, and she sees no easy solutions for what has become a record run.

Total active shortages hit an all-time high of 323 in this year's first quarter, according to the University of Utah Drug Information Service. That's up about 86% from a 10-year low of 174 last reached in 2017.

There were 48 new shortages recorded this year through March, according to the data, published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Still, Fox also sees positive news developing. The associate chief pharmacy officer at University of Utah Health spoke recently with The Associated Press. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q:** Are there any signs that this is letting up?

**A:** Unfortunately, no. We haven't necessarily solved some of the root causes. We have, overall, relatively few manufacturers. (The U.S. Food and Drug Administration) halted inspections during COVID. Now they're back, at factories that maybe haven't been inspected for five or six years. They're finding some things to fix.



Associated Press Illustration/Jenni Sohn)

Those fixes can take anywhere from 6 to 18 months for production to get fully back on schedule.

Meanwhile, other companies don't necessarily have the capacity to ramp up production to make up the difference.

It's not the FDA's fault. We want them to find those quality deficits. But when FDA goes out looking all at once, it can be pretty disruptive.

**Q:** What are the typical drugs that land on the shortage list?

**A:** Generic, injectable hospital drugs or older drugs. They are usually pretty low cost. There's not a lot of resilience in the supply chain for another company to make up the difference. □

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# Stores are more subdued in observing Pride Month. Some LGBTQ+ people see a silver lining in that

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With Pride Month in full gear, U.S. shoppers can find the usual merchandise many stores stock for the June celebration of LGBTQ+ culture and rights. But analysts and advocates say the marketing is toned down compared to previous years, and at some chains, there's no trace of Pride at all.

The more subdued atmosphere underscores the struggle of many retailers to cater to different groups of customers at a time of extreme cultural divisions. This year's Pride Month is unfolding amid a sea of legislation and litigation over LGBTQ+ rights, especially the ability of transgender young people to participate in sports or receive gender-affirming care.

Against this backdrop, Target reduced the number of its stores carrying Pride-themed products this year after getting backlash in 2023. Nike, which like Bud Light became the subject of boycott calls last year over its marketing partnership with a transgender influencer, also has pulled back after offering Pride collections since 1999. The athletic brand said it won't have one this year; rather, it said it's focusing on programming and ongoing support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Some brands and influencers who work with the community report a noticeable decline in corporate partnerships. Rob Smith, founder and chief executive of The Phluid Project, a brand of gender-neutral clothing, cited a 25% drop compared with last June in the number of stores carrying his collection.

"I guess they just decided this year, especially in an election year, with what's going on, just to play it safe," Smith said. He declined to reveal the names of his former retail clients.

But he and other advocates see a silver lining. They think the low-key landscape partially reflects a desire by some companies to move beyond one-month expres-



A jacket with patches from Levi's Pride collection is displayed at a Levi's Store in downtown Chicago, Monday, June 10, 2024.

sions of support toward more enduring acts of allyship, such as regularly featuring LGBTQ+-owned brands and models.

Here's what to know about the retail world and Pride Month:

What's the history of Pride merchandising? Many big retailers, including Levi's, Old Navy and Urban Outfitters, have put out Pride collections for years. Some brands limited their store displays to areas with large numbers of LGBTQ+ residents or visitors and expanded them to more places as LGBTQ+ rights progressed.

Many more brands eventually got in on the action, especially after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages in 2015. But as Pride became more commercialized, some advocates questioned the hoopla, saying support of the LGBTQ+ community shouldn't be a seasonal marketing opportunity.

What happened with Target? Target introduced an annual collection of rainbow-branded fashion and accessories starting in 2015. It generated occasional opposition, but the reaction turned "volatile" ahead of last year's Pride Month, the company said.

Customers at a handful of stores confronted employees and tipped over

Pride displays, threatening workers' sense of safety, Target said. The discounter responded last year by removing some items and re-locating some displays.

Target declined to disclose how many of its stores don't have Pride merchandise this year; the locations that were stocked accounted for 90% of Pride sales from 2022 and 2023, it said. Pride items also are available on Target's website.

Meredith Browand, 47, who lives outside Seattle, was let down when she didn't see any Pride displays at her local Target. Browand, who considers herself an LGBTQ+ ally, said Target was where she always bought matching outfits for herself and her 5-year old daughter.

"I'm disappointed in that there isn't anything for us," she said. "But a bigger disappointment is that it's not visible for the greater community."

Where is Pride merchandise available this year? Many retailers contacted by The Associated Press said they haven't changed their approaches to commemorating Pride Month.

Macy's said its namesake department stores, its upscale Bloomingdale's and its Bluemercury beauty stores each spotlight products from LGBTQ+-owned, founded and designed brands at

select stores and online.

Walmart offers an assortment from LGBTQ+ owned brands and creators available online and in some stores nationwide. Adidas, Converse and Levi Strauss & Co., which have brought out Pride Month collections for many years, did so again. Teen retailer American Eagle Outfitters plans to offer a year-round Pride collection to "promote acceptance and equality," said Jennifer Foyle, president and executive creative director of American Eagle and Aerie, which sells women's clothing.

What are the signs of a Pride pullback? Marketing experts and LGBTQ+ rights advocates perceive that overall, brands aren't promoting their Pride Month products on social media as heavily as in past years.

"It's not dropping the support," said Barbara Kahn, a marketing professor at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. "But they're dropping the spotlight."

It's possible the shift reflects a natural progression, Kahn said. If lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people are regarded as part of the norm, there's no point in making a big statement, she said.

Members of the LGBTQ+ community who previously got work tied to Pride Month

cite a marked change in the demand for their services. Not all of them interpret the pullback as positive.

Alysse Dalessandro, a plus-size fashion and travel blogger and LGBTQ+ content creator who posts under the handle @readytostare, said 35 clients hired her as a model for their Pride Month social media campaigns in 2022. The number dropped to nine last year and to five so far this year, the Cleveland, Ohio, resident said.

"The hard part for me as a creator is that I can't change my identity. This is who I am," Dalessandro said. "How I make money is also who I am and who I love."

GLSEN, a nonprofit advocacy and education group that works to improve the school lives of LGBTQ+ students, also helps corporations craft Pride Month campaigns. The group started seeing a drop in revenue from such activities last year and experienced a bigger drop this year, according to Paul Irwin-Dudek, GLSEN's deputy executive director for development.

He declined to elaborate. Irwin-Dudek said some companies have retreated, but plenty of others have doubled down in their commitment to promoting LGBTQ+ rights.

At the same time, members of GLSEN's National Student Council who provided feedback to the Hollister fashion brand asked for fewer prominent rainbows and more messages of love, acceptance and individuality. The result: "Unapologetically You," a summer campaign launched this month.

How are retailers recognizing other heritage months? Experts say special merchandising and marketing campaigns around other months designated to honor specific groups, including racial minorities and women, also are fading.

Target CEO Brian Cornell told reporters last year the company had learned from the Pride backlash and planned to be more thoughtful in how it approached all heritage months. □

Associated Press



# Bryson DeChambeau goes from petulant pro to man of the people during his US Open triumph

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

PINEHURST, N.C. (AP) —

It was late on Saturday night at the U.S. Open when Bryson DeChambeau, having hit a few last balls on the practice range in preparation for one of the biggest rounds of his life, could have headed home and gotten some much-needed rest.

Instead, he marshaled a bunch of kids who had stuck around past sunset to one end of the range, and made sure everyone who wanted a picture or autograph in some cases, a second picture when the first didn't turn out got exactly that.

The once-petulant young player with a sizeable ego and bigger swing had become a man of the people. It carried over to the final round on Sunday, too, when thousands of fans lining the fairways under the Carolina pines seemed to be carrying him around Pinehurst No. 2. And when Rory McIlroy, himself one of the biggest fan favorites in the game, missed two short par putts to squander his chance at a long-awaited fifth major, DeChambeau gave the crowd encircling



**Bryson DeChambeau celebrates with fans and the trophy after winning the U.S. Open golf tournament Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Pinehurst, N.C.**

Associated Press

the 18th green one more reason to roar with a save every bit as memorable as Payne Stewart's on the same hole 25 years ago. From the fairway bunker, with a sand wedge in his hands and 55 yards to the hole, DeChambeau took a big swipe and knocked it close. And unlike McIlroy, he made the short putt, before letting out a roar of his own at his second U.S. Open victory.

"I haven't really let it sink in yet," he said in the immediate aftermath, standing on the 18th green and addressing the fans, after posting 6-under 274 to edge McIlroy by a single stroke in a duel for the ages. "Tonight," he said, "I want all of you guys somehow, I want you guys to touch this trophy, because I want you to experience what this feels like for me. You were a part of this journey this

week, and I want you to be a part of it for the after-party." It turned out to be some party. DeChambeau paraded the silver trophy through the masses, allowing them to put their own fingerprints on it. Just as many reached out to touch him, rubbing his head and slapping his back in a genuine show of hard-won affection. It wasn't so long ago that DeChambeau was

loathed by many in the golf world. Four years ago, after he had bulked up to add distance to his game, DeChambeau showed up for the Masters and brazenly proclaimed that his power had rendered the par-72 Augusta National a par 67, because he could reach the four par-5s in two and the short, par-4 third hole was reachable off the tee. (It took until this year for him to break his "par," by the way.) There was also the feud with Brooks Koepka, which smacked of chauvinism run amok. And three years ago at the British Open, DeChambeau ripped his own equipment manufacturer after a particularly poor day off the tee. Two years ago, DeChambeau helped to dig the current rift in golf when he was among the first to sign with the Saudi-backed breakaway LIV Golf league. Many fans still have a hard time reconciling the fact that the game's best play against each other only at the majors, and they point to DeChambeau and others joining LIV as the biggest reason why. All of which makes his transformation all the more incredible. □

## AFC North to be featured on in-season 'Hard Knocks,' close look at Ravens, Bengals, Browns, Steelers

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

The AFC North is ready for its closeup.

The division best known for heated rivalries and star quarterbacks will be featured on HBO's "Hard Knocks" TV series this season. It's the first time the Emmy Award-winning series has chronicled an entire division.

Last season, the AFC North's four teams — the Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers — all finished with winning records. With QBs Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow, Deshaun Watson and Russell Wilson, who

was traded from Denver to Pittsburgh in the offseason, there are plenty of storylines in the North along with a reputation for tight, testy games.

"Hard Knocks: In Season with the AFC North" will debut on Dec. 3 and run through the rest of the regular season and playoffs. Jackson is coming off a second MVP win, but came up short of a first Super Bowl trip. Burrow played just 10 games last season before undergoing wrist surgery. Watson is entering a make-or-break third season in Cleveland, and Wilson is hoping to restart his career with Justin Fields in his shadow.

The Ravens were the first team featured on the original "Hard Knocks" in 2001. The Bengals' training camp was featured in 2009 and 2013, and the Browns in 2018.

This will be the Steelers' first appearance on the popular show that takes fans deep inside the locker room, huddle and inner workings of NFL teams. The series has expanded to highlight the league's offseason, training camp, regular season and post-season. The New York Giants' offseason will be the first chronicled, and the Chicago Bears will be featured in training camp as

they try to break in rookie quarterback Caleb Wil-

liams, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft. □



**Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Russell Wilson throws a pass during the team's NFL mini-camp football practice in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

Associated Press



# This week's Yankees-Orioles showdown could be the start of an epic race for the AL East title

By **NOAH TRISTER**  
AP Baseball Writer

The New York Yankees played last weekend at Fenway Park against rival Boston. The Baltimore Orioles hosted three straight sellouts against Philadelphia in a series matching two of the top teams in baseball.

And that was somehow just the undercard.

Now for the main event: Starting on Tuesday night, New York hosts Baltimore for three games between the two clubs that have already opened up a big gap on the rest of the AL East. The Yankees are on pace to win 109 games, the Orioles 107. With only the division champion eligible to earn a postseason first-round bye, this could be the start of a compelling AL East title race.

"I think it should be fun," Baltimore outfielder Colton Cowser said. "I think that any chance you go into Yankee Stadium, especially with the year they're having, it's going to be a really good environment."

The tale of the tape is as follows: The Yankees (50-24) have the best record in baseball; the Orioles (47-24)



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge strikes out swinging in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Boston.

Associated Press

will be second or third depending on Philadelphia's result Monday night. The Yankees have the game's top run differential and the Orioles are second. The Orioles are No. 1 in home runs and runs per game and the Yankees are No. 2 in both categories. The Yankees lead the major leagues in ERA and the Orioles are No. 2.

Baltimore, last year's divi-

sion champ, has not lost any of its past 21 series against AL East foes, going 15-0-6. That includes winning three of four over the Yankees at Camden Yards about six weeks ago.

"I think both teams have clearly established themselves as really formidable, but at the same time, it is a marathon. We've got a long way to go," New York manager Aaron Boone

said. "I think right now all I can say is both teams are really good, really dangerous and have a lot of potential."

Both teams rely on the long ball. New York's Aaron Judge leads the majors with 26, and sure enough it's a Baltimore player Gunnar Henderson in second place with 22. Juan Soto has 18 homers and Giancarlo Stanton 17 for

the Yankees. The Orioles have five players with at least 11.

New York and Baltimore have faced significant pitching injuries but in different ways. Reigning Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole hasn't pitched yet this season for the Yankees because of elbow nerve inflammation, but the rest of the rotation has stepped up and five New York pitchers have started 70 of 74 games. The Orioles have had a healthy ace in Corbin Burnes, but the list of injuries to the rest of their staff is lengthy, with Félix Bautista, John Means and Tyler Wells out for the season and Kyle Bradish and Dean Kremer currently on the injured list.

"It's a really good team. They're very complete. They've had some injuries happen to their rotation, but their depth has served them well," Boone said.

"They continue to get good starting pitching, been able to close out games and they have a versatile and dynamic offense. They can beat you with power, they can beat you with speed, they can match up against you." □

# Les Miles sues LSU, NCAA and College Football Hall of Fame over 37 vacated victories

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)** — the LSU Tigers to a 2007 Les Miles, who coached national championship, is



LSU coach Les Miles watches his team warm up before an NCAA college football game against Florida in Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 17, 2015.

Associated Press

suing the university over its decision to vacate 37 of his teams' victories between 2012 and 2015.

The lawsuit filed Monday in federal court in Baton Rouge alleges that LSU never gave Miles a chance to be heard before altering the coach's career record significantly enough to disqualify him from consideration for the College Football Hall of Fame.

"Les was given no right to be heard, or even advance notice of LSU's actions, despite LSU being a state-owned and state-run institution that is bound by constitutional safeguards," Miles' lawyer, Peter Ginsberg, said in a statement. The decision in June 2023

to vacate the victories stemmed from an NCAA ruling that former Tigers offensive lineman Vadal Alexander had received financial benefits that violated NCAA rules at the time he played.

The lawsuit also names the NCAA and Atlanta-based College Football Hall of Fame as defendants, and it demands that they reinstate the vacated victories to Miles' official career coaching record. LSU spokesman Michael Bonnette said the university was "not able to comment on pending litigation." The other defendants did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the lawsuit.

Vacating the victories changed Miles' official career record from 145-73 (.665) to 108-73 (.597).

The lawsuit notes that a .600 career win percentage is required to qualify for the College Football Hall of Fame.

The lawsuit also contends that while LSU formally tied the vacated victories to alleged football violations, the university was trying to minimize its overall exposure to NCAA punishment for an array of violations that included conduct by former men's basketball coach Will Wade, who was subsequently found by an NCAA probe to have committed major recruiting violations. □